

Message Text

SECRET

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15
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-07 SSM-03 IO-13 L-03 PRS-01 /083 W

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R 280548Z NOV 76
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3852
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USCINCEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 1751

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR KU IZ
SUBJECT: KUWAIT/IRAQ BORDER

REF: KUWAIT 5379

1. KUWAIT BORDER DEVELOPMENTS CITED REFTEL HAVE HAD NO APPARENT IMPACT IN BAGHDAD. OUR FONMIN AND DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS SEEM UNAWARE OF ANY NEW TENSION ON KUWAITI BORDER, WITH EXCEPTION OF BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED REPORTING SIMILAR TO REFTEL FROM THEIR EMBASSY IN KUWAIT.

2. FOR SOME TIME, HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN HEARING ABOUT A SLOW BUILDUP OF IRAQI FORCES ON KUWAIT BORDER. ONE SOURCE TOLD US THAT NEW MISSILE DELIVERIES FROM SOVIET UNION ARE NOW GOING TO UNITS NEAR BASRA.

3. COMMENT: IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT IRAQIS ARE WAITING FOR AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO STEP UP THEIR PRESSURE ON

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KUWAITIS FOR CONCESSIONS ON WABRAH AND BUBIYAN ISLANDS.

GOI OFFICIALS, CONSIDER IT MOST UNREASONABLE FOR
KUWAITIS TO REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE IRAQ'S NEED TO PROTECT
ITS ENTRY TO UM QASR. UNTIL APPROPRIATE MOMENT ARRIVES
FOR SHOWDOWN, GOI IS LIKELY TO KEEP ISSUE ALIVE BY
OCCASIONAL INCURSIONS OVER KUWAITI BORDER AND PERHAPS BY
HARASSMENT OF KUWAIT'S OIL DRILLING ACTIVITIES IN AREA.
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Message Attributes

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